Installation Instructions for Chain Link Fence

NOTE: Check local building codes before beginning your fencing project.
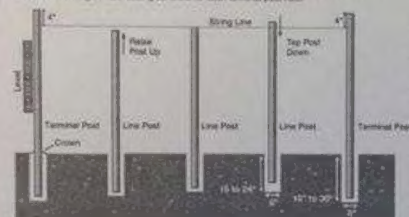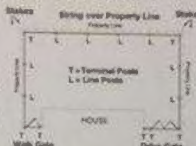
1 Measure, mark and install terminal posts

Determine the boundary lines of the property, insert stakes and stretch string around all stakes. Mark locations for all terminal posts (corner, end and gate) and make sure they are 4" inside property boundaries. Mark location for each gate post with a stake. Gates come in standard opening widths of 36", 39", 42" and 48" for walk gate and 10' and 12' for drive gate.

NOTE: If gate opening is 42", gate post spacing should be exactly 42", measured between inside post surfaces. If opening is 48", spacing should be exactly 48" – see Step 6.

Dig all terminal post holes – see diagram below for width and depth. Mark the ground line on all posts for correct fence height. The height of the terminal posts, above ground, will equal the height of the chain link fabric plus 2". The height of the line posts will equal the height of the fabric minus 2". Set terminal posts in fast-setting concrete in center of hole, keeping ground line at ground level". Use a level to check plumb. Crown all post footings so water drains away from posts.

*NOTE: Use approximately one 50 lb. bag of fast-setting concrete for each line post hole and two 50 lb. bags of fast-setting concrete for each terminal post hole.

2 Locate and install line posts

After the concrete has hardened, stretch a string (positioned on the outside post face) between terminal posts. The string should be 4" below the top of the post – see diagram above. Measure the distance between the terminal posts. With stakes, mark the locations of all line posts and align with the centers of the terminal posts. Refer to the terminal/line post spacing chart on tear pad 1 for positioning of line posts. Dig all holes for line posts and set posts in concrete- see diagram above. After concrete has hardened enough for posts to remain plumb, adjust all line posts to be the same height as the string by moving posts up or down. Use a carpenter's level for accuracy. The outside faces of the line posts should be 1/4" inside the string line.

3 Install fittings to terminal posts

Review the material checklist on tear pad 1 for descriptions and number of fittings required. After concrete footings have hardened, slip the tension bands over terminal posts, making sure they are evenly spaced. The long, flat surface should face the outside of the fence. Carefully add brace bands, making sure not to bend or distort. Bolt heads should be on the outside of the fence and threaded ends inside. Fit all post caps.

4 Install top rails

Place an eye top fitting on the end of each line post. The flat side should face outside of the fence. Insert one length of top rail through an eye top nearest a terminal post. Insert a rail end on the top rail and attach to terminal post with a brace band. Fasten with a 5/16" x 1-1/4" carriage bolt.

Continue to join lengths of top rail by forcing swedged (or crimped) ends of top rail together through eye tops.

NOTE: If joining non-swedged top rail sections, sleeves can be used.

When next terminal post is reached, measure and cut the top rail to fit tightly between the last length of top rail and the rail end fastened to the brace band on the terminal post. Fasten with a carriage bolt.

5 Affix and stretch fence fabric

Beginning at a terminal post, lay the fabric on the ground and unroll to next terminal post. Unroll enough fabric to cover the opening between the terminal posts – see figure below for adding and removing fabric. Insert a tension bar through the end of the fabric and attach to tension bands that were previously placed on the terminal posts. Fasten (not too tightly) with 5/16" x 1-1/4" carriage bolts so heads are on the outside of the fence and threaded ends inside.

Stand the entire fence section upright, leaning against the framework. Loosely attach fabric to top rail with wire ties to hold in place.
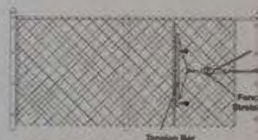
REMOVING FABRIC
With pliers, open the top and bottom ends of wire where you wish to terminate or remove fabric. Unwind the strand and twist through the links until the wire comes out of the fabric, in a corkscrew manner.

ADDING OR SPLICING FABRIC
From an end of the fabric, remove a strand of wire. Join the two sections together and wind the removed wire down through the ends, in a corkscrew manner.

NOTE: A second strand of wire may have to be removed in order to mesh properly.

From the terminal post, which already has fabric attached, stretch the fabric to the opposite terminal post – see diagram at right. Insert a tension bar 4" inside the open end of the fabric. Fasten one end of the fence stretcher to the tension bar or stretcher bar and the other end to the terminal post. Stretch the fabric until there is a slight tension when squeezed by hand. Either add or remove fabric for exact length. Insert a tension bar at end and connect to the tension bands on the terminal post. Remove fence stretcher and secure fabric to top rail with wire ties.

NOTE: Wire tie spacing should be 24" apart on top rail and 12" apart on line posts.

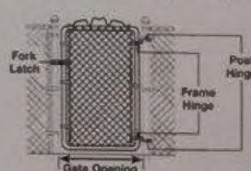Securely tighten nuts on all brace and tension bands.

6 Hang gates

NOTE: Clearance for hinges and latches (4" for walk gates and 6" for drive gates) is included in stated gate opening width.

Attach frame hinges to gate frame. Install post hinges to gate post. Install top post hinge with pin pointing down and bottom post hinge with pin pointing up. This will prevent the gate from being lifted off the hinges. Place gate in position by aligning the top of the gate with the top of the fence and adjust the hinges to allow for a full swing. Install gate latch at desired height and fasten all bolts.

NOTE: Follow the same directions to install drive gates.